

The Suffolk Foundation is pleased to announce that Destanie Fonoimoana is the 2014 winner of both the Howard D. Mast Memorial Scholarship (HMMS) and the Col. Fred V. Cherry Scholarship. Destanie, a King's Fork High School senior resides in the city of Suffolk with her mother, Tiffany Booth.

In making the selection, the committees reviewed the applicant's financial need, academic performance, extracurricular activities, character, and recommendations. The selection committees were especially impressed with Destanie's ability to participate in numerous school activities, particularly varsity tennis, golf and swimming, and be able to maintain exceptional academic success. Her leadership skills were very evident in being selected as captain of both the swim and tennis teams.

She was able to balance her extremely challenging course of studies, participate in athletic activities, receive recognition as the most outstanding student in Chemistry, Geometry, and Algebraic Functions and Data. Destanie has been involved as a volunteer both in the community and her church. She attends East End Baptist Church, where she is an active member and officer of the Vision Youth Choir and Youth Usher's Ministry. In one of Destanie's letters of reference, based on her many outstanding characteristics, the teacher stated that she had no other choice but to refer to her as "phenomenal".

It was obvious to the Scholarship Committees Destanie is a firm believer in the philosophy that nothing worthwhile can be gained without dedication and hard work, a philosophy that was exhibited by both Col. Fred V. Cherry and Mr. Howard D. Mast. The committees felt Destanie demonstrates this philosophical attribute in everything she undertakes. Destanie will be an Honor Graduate this spring and has been accepted and plans to attend Old Dominion University next year. The scholarship awards will be sent directly to Old Dominion University.

Congratulations to Destanie Fonomoana, who stated in her essay that she thought Mr. Mast would be proud of her achievements and involvement in the community. Indeed, that fact was echoed by both The Suffolk Foundation and the Howard D. Mast Scholarship Committees.